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18 September 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: A/DDP/A

SUBJECT: Mr. Leo Cherne and his Implied Offer to Construct a Solid Anti-Castro Revolutionary Front within Ninety Days

1. This memorandum is provided the A/DDP/A for his information.

2. Reference is made to Mr. Carey's memorandum of 23 August (Attachment A) which reports on a recent meeting of Mr. Cherne and the New York representative of OO Contact Division, during which Mr. Cherne stated that he felt certain that within a period of ninety days he could construct a solid revolutionary front out of the several Cuban exile groups and movements. Additionally, he indicated a former working relationship with the Agency and specifically with Mr. Rudy Gomez, former Deputy Chief, Western Hemisphere Division, the DCI, and "the DD/P people". The Contact Division representatives believe that even though Mr. Cherne's remarks concerning the unification of Cuban exile elements were probably intended to provoke a reaction, he has, no doubt, given the matter considerable thought and he may approach the Deputy Director (Plans) or the DCI in the near future regarding this matter.

3. Available information indicates that Mr. Cherne is reputed to be an outstanding American liberal. As Executive Secretary of the Research Institute of America, Analyst and Commentator for Mutual Broadcasting and former Chairman of the International Rescue Committee, he has considerable stature and reputation for expertness in a number of fields. These fields include governmental, social and economic reform, tax legislation, and refugee problems. After World War II he revised the Japanese tax and fiscal structure and subsequently he worked on political and economic problems involved in the industrial development of Puerto Rico, West Berlin and South Vietnam. He is a strong advocate of the use of tax legislation as a major instrument in bringing about economic and social change.

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4. In the spring of 1959, Mr. Cherne was granted a POA for use by the Western Hemisphere Division in high level contacts with Cuban government officials for political action purposes. Although a contract for his services had been drawn up, it was never executed. In early 1959, Mr. Cherne provided background information on a number of prominent Cuban political figures and at one point he offered to act as an intermediary with Castro as well as Mr. Mathews of the New York Times. This offer was not accepted. Attachment B is a memorandum of conversation between Mr. Cherne and Mr. Rudolph E. Gomez, the Deputy Chief of Western Hemisphere Division, concerning this matter. Mr. Cherne's POA expired in April 1960, but could be reinstated since his security investigation was completed in late 1959.

5. In regard to Mr. Cherne's statement that he was in contact with several Cuban exile leaders, Attachment C is a report of Mr. Cherne's meeting with Raul CHIBAS, the former deputy of Manolo RAY, the leader of the MRP group.

6. Investigation and study of the possible utilization of Mr. Cherne and/or similar persons will be continued. The previous association between Mr. Cherne and the Western Hemisphere Division was, however, sufficient to indicate it would not be desirable to try to utilize him as the principal advisor of the CAC in our efforts to unite the Cuban opposition. It may, however, be possible to utilize his services at some future date as an intermediary with certain Cuban opposition elements or perhaps similar groups in the Dominican Republic or elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere.

/s/ J. C. KING

J. C. KING  
Chief,

Western Hemisphere Division

Attachments: 3 03

DDP/WH/4/Plans [F.W.Barkley]bh (18 Sep 61)

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